

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 11, 12 and 17 are independent claims. Claims 1, 11, 12 and 17 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,822,510 (LeClair et al.). Claims 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *LeClair* in view of U.S. Patent 5,729,637 (Nicholson et al.).

Among other important features of the aspects of the invention set forth in the respective independent claims, are holding attribute information representing plural types of attributes in correspondence in units of pixels of a bitmap image, and switching conversion process on the basis of a combination of those types of attributes in units of pixels of the bitmap image. Examples of attribute information are indicated in Figs. 17 to 20 (it is of course to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the examples referred to, or by other details of the disclosure).

By virtue of these features, it is possible to provide finer attributes, in units of pixels, by reference to a combination of a plurality of attribute types.

LeClair relates to a printer driver which analyzes print data and stores analysis data into a journal file (see Fig. 4). A render driver 37 processes the print data depending on the type of stored analysis data (see abstract). The journal file includes attribute information 126, as shown in Fig. 7, which the Examiner appears to equate with the attribute information recited in Claim 1. Applicants note, however, that the attribute

information 126 of *LeClair* is assigned in units of objects, as shown in Fig. 7 of *LeClair*. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in *LeClair* that would teach or suggest holding attribute information in units of pixels, as recited in Claim 1. As a result, the *LeClair* apparatus cannot switch conversion process for converting a bitmap image into data capable of being processed by an image output unit, in units of pixels. For at least that reason, claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over that patent.

Nicholson et al. merely teaches that the object data is represented by page description language, and fails to teach or suggest the above characteristic feature of the claimed invention.

The other independent claims are corresponding memory-medium, system and method claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record, including *Nicholson*, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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